



BITS OF GOLD

Montana Talking Book Library

Regional Library of the National Library Service
For the Blind and Physically Handicapped
(NLS/BPH)

Volume 103, Number 1

2003

DESCRIPTIVE VIDEO SERVICE (DVS®)

Since 1996, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) ruled that broadcast and cable networks must provide video description to make television programs more accessible to all viewers with visual impairment. As a part of its standards, stereo televisions now offer Multi-Channel Television Sound (MTS). MTS gives the viewer a choice of mono sound, stereo sound, or Secondary Audio Program (SAP). This SAP feature allows an alternate sound track to be broadcast without covering any portion of the TV screen. Many PBS, network, and cable stations use the SAP channel for video descriptive programming. It is also possible to record these programs for later viewing.

Audio description for TV programs or movies features a narrator describing the essential visual elements of the story. These elements cover such things as the action sequences, character's facial expressions and gestures, costumes, scenery, and scene changes. Instead of grasping only part of the story by just listening to the dialogue, viewers with vision loss can now experience all the nuances of the story. Teachers also find the descriptive videos help students increase their vocabulary and description skills.

To access DVS programs, you need to have a TV or VCR with the SAP feature or a stand-alone SAP receiver. Use your TV's remote control or onscreen menus to turn on the SAP feature. The stand-alone SAP receiver works like a radio. You tune to the channel that is broadcasting the soundtrack of the descriptive program you've picked.

Some DVS programs currently airing on PBS are: Adventures from The Book of Virtues, American Experience, Angelina, Arthur, Barney, Between the Lions, Cyberchase, Exxon Mobil Masterpiece, Mister Roger's Neighborhood, Mystery, Nature, Nova, Scientific American Frontiers, Zoboomafoo and Zoom.

The network and cable programs provide the following descriptive programs:

On CBS: Blue's Clues, CSI: Crime Scene Investigation, and Jag.

On Fox: The Bernie Mac Show, Boston Public, Malcolm in the Middle, Oliver Beene, and The Simpsons.

On Nickelodeon: Blue's Clues, Dora the Explorer, and Rugrats.

For the latest changes or scheduling of DVS programs, go to the WGBH website at <http://access.wgbh.org> or call the DVS Information Line at 1-800-333-1203.

RADIO READING SERVICE RECORDS MONTANA NEWSPAPERS

Radio Reading Service (RRS) offers free access for the blind or physically print impaired to Montana Newspapers. Volunteer readers provide readings from 15 Montana newspapers from 9am to 4pm, Monday –Friday. RRS provides a closed circuit receiver their patrons can tune to KUFM, KGPR or KEMC on FM to receive broadcasts. To find out if your eligible for this service, call 1-800-942-7323.

The National Federation of the Blind (NFB) NEWSLINE® grant provided free access to national newspapers. This grant ended on February 28, 2003. You may still subscribe to NEWSLINE® for a fee by calling 1-888-882-1629.

LIBRARY HOURS: Mon-Fri 8am-5pm

PHONE HOURS: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm

PHONE NUMBERS: 1-800-332-3400 or 406-444-2064

For patron requests or if you're not sure who to contact, e-mail us at:

mtbl@state.mt.us

MTBL WEBSITE: <http://www.msl.state.mt.us/tbl>

WEBOPAC WEBSITE: <http://www.klasweb.msl.state.mt.us>

REGIONAL LIBRARIAN: Christie Briggs, cbriggs@state.mt.us

COORDINATOR VOL SVC: Diane Gunderson, dgunderson@state.mt.us

CIRCULATION CLERK: Carolyn Meier, cameier@state.mt.us

MACHINE LENDING AGENT: Lee Madison, lmadison@state.mt.us

READER ADVISORS: Patrons with last names A-G contact:

Moriah Haley, mhaley@state.mt.us

Patrons with last names H-O contact:

Cheryl Christopher, cchristopher@state.mt.us

Patrons with last names P-Z contact:

Lee Madison, lmadison@state.mt.us

BITS OF GOLD EDITOR: Cheryl Christopher

LIBRARIAN'S LOG: from the desk of Christie Briggs, Regional Librarian

LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE—The House Appropriations Committee on March 10th allocated an additional \$160,000 from the Coal Severance Tax (CST) joint account to Montana State Library (MSL). If this current action on the budget holds through the end of the session and subject to the MSL Commission's final approval, funds will be available for previously cut State Library projects and Talking Books will not lose an employee position. We have still suffered cuts, but the State Library's budget is now 1.3 percent above the Governor's proposed 2002 budget. Other legislative cuts included a 1 percent reduction in all agencies' general funds, an additional \$16,000 per year for MSL. Changes may still occur this session.

In other legislative action of interest to patrons, HB 572 for Braille Literacy for Blind and Visually Impaired Children passed the House unanimously and is now before the Senate.

I know that many of you have contacted your legislators asking them to consider the needs of the State Library. Your work has resulted in these positive changes to the Montana State Library's overall budget, as well as Montana Talking Book Library specifically. We still have to go through the Senate actions and get to the end of the session before receiving the "final word". We extend our gratitude for your support. Your continued support is appreciated.

Best regards,

Christie Briggs, Regional Librarian

**"What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters
compared to what lies within us"** **--Ralph Waldo Emerson**

DONATIONS AND MEMORIALS FROM 2002

The Montana Talking Book Library staff wishes to express their appreciation for the kindness of those who made contributions to our library in 2002. Many Montanans will enjoy their generosity for years to come. Their gifts will enable us to provide programs and purchase equipment our budget does not cover. Each monetary donation is tax deductible and the amount is confidential. Letters of appreciation are sent to all donors, as well as notification sent to the families of those honored by memorial contributions. When making a donation in memory of a loved one or in honor of someone, please include the name of the person for whom the tribute is made, and the name and address of those to be notified of your gift. A heartfelt thanks to all the following contributors:

DONATIONS: Ettabel & E.T. Aasheim, Cookie & Tom Basinger, Susan & Robert Baxter, Thelma Beausoleil, Betty Lou & Richard Berg, Lea & Herb Blunn, Norma & Thomas Bundy, Dorothy Carpenter, Kenzie Clark, J'Nell & Charlie Coffman, Ann Cole, Judith Cooper, Jim Daily, Mary Davis, Hertha & Ray DeBeaumont, Buster Dickert, Dolly & Terry Dwyer, LaVonne Eva, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Fanelli, Jr., Percy Frazier, Jr., W.F. Frazier, Sr., Barbara C. Fredrickson, Helen Grych, Lloyd Hanson, Mr. & Mrs. Don Heath, Lucille Hickman, Inez Hohn, Robert Howe, Millie Huxley, Rosala Ivy, Liz & Forrest Jackson, Mr. & Mrs. H.R. Johnson, Vernie Kralicek, Vicki Krug, Ralph Leonard, Lincoln County Combined Campaign, Darlene Lloyd, Bettye Madison, Yvonne & G.E. McGrane, Virginia & A.J. Marchello, Artie & Keith Markegard, Colleen Mockler, Montana Association for the Blind, Jack Musegades, Mrs. George Myers, Helen Myers, Mae Percival, Noel Phillips, Gloria Purcell, Thelma Rader, David Rotar, Fern & Leonard Salisbury, Emma & Leon Schoessler, Charles Schott, Jean Smith, Edna & Oliver Smith, Mr. & Mrs. Don Steiner, Evalina Stetler, Irene Stewart, Rose Sylling, Edith Tanna, A.E. Therriault, Marie Timbrell, Myrle Tompkins, D.L. Triplett, Velma Turner, John Vandenberg, Erin Vashro, Aileen & James Veltkamp, Vivien Vinson, Evelyn Watts, Jane Weidler, Georgia & D.E. White, Amoretta & Tom Wilkins, Carter Williams, Gwen & Byron Williams, George Wong, Cylene Wood, and Donna Wynn

MEMORIALS IN HONOR OF:

Ron Amdahl—Lea & Herb Blunn

Thelma Beausoleil—Pam & Mitch Rodgers

Jon Richard Beck & Richard D Beck—Nancy L. Beck

Lorraine Cattermole—Marian & Stanley Harwood and Gwen & Robert Wood

Margaret Diomede—Patricia & Lyle Myers

Sid Gooley—De Lane Newgard

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Margaret Harper—Joyce & Edwin Eck

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Thelma O'Donnell—Judy & Mark Adams and sons, Frances Ainlay, Linda Anderson, Carol Ankney, Jay Atwell, Phyllis & Harlyn Bakko, Robert Bratton, Michael Brown, Betty & Charles Dernback, Janice Dietz, Audrey Dugger, Phyllis Friesz, Louis Hall, Kathleen & Warren Herman, Employees of Jackson, Potter & Co., LLP, Patricia Jaffray, Cooke Kelly, Dr. Tedd C. Kinney, Rhonda & Raymond Knapp, Kathy & Kent Loveland, Gerry & Herb Mangis, Basil McCann, Marlene & Thomas McCormick, Vikki & Arne Mysse, Linda Obie, Mary O'Dea, Michael O'Donnell, Sharon & Ronald Olsen, Elaine Rudio, Sharon Schmidt-Herren and Gary Herren, Lorraine Schoer, Kelly Selph, Employees of Streeter Brothers Insurance, Inc., Terry & Duane Van Atta, Shelley & Lawrence Vanatta, Lorraine & Larry Walter, Employees of Weldtech Services, and Helen Youst.

Margaret Oleson—Connie Alderson and Mr. & Mrs. Dale Bauman

Larry Persson—Myrna & Clair Varner

Frank Peters—Marian & Stanley Harwood

Rose Mary Rougle—Sylvia Webb Clubb & Harold Clubb, Lucile Conrad, and Annette & John Hightower

Margaret Schuld—Susan Henderson and Marion Koch

Irene Stewart—Susan Henderson and Marion Koch

Marie Timbrell—Mrs. Emily Hughes, Wednesday Bible Study, and Mrs. Audrey Neill

William Toms—Lynette Andeen and Diane & John Larson

Virginia Dart Tredway—Jacquelyn North

Rose Ward—Celeste Schwend

Thelma Winston—Alberta & Deane Blanton, Jerry Norheim and Gail Winterhalter

WHERE OH WHERE HAVE OUR TAPES GONE?

While you're spring cleaning, would you please check and see if you have any loose cassette tapes that don't belong to the books you are currently reading. We match these to incomplete books that were returned to us. They can then be returned to the shelves and checked out again. Please return any blank green containers also. Thank you for assisting us.

VOLUNTEER'S VOICE from the desk of Diane Gunderson

PARKING: In October of 2002, the State of Montana began issuing City of Helena parking citations to ensure the public's safety and access to state buildings. Citations will be issued to those vehicles illegally parked in state-owned parking lots' handicapped spots, the streets surrounding the Capitol Complex, and our three, specially-designated volunteer parking areas.

We would like to remind all of the volunteers and patrons to use their handicapped or volunteer stickers when parking in these areas to avoid a citation.

RSVP Volunteers: The annual RSVP Volunteer Recognition Brunch for the Helena area volunteers will be on Saturday, April 26, 2003 from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon.

RECORDING PROGRAM: BEHIND THE SCENES, Part I

When you listen to a Montana Cassette Book (MCB), do you ever wonder how it was made? The answer is **TEAMWORK**. Here at MTBL we have fifteen recording teams. Each team consists of a reader, monitor, reviewer, and recording program assistant. All four positions are essential to producing a quality book for your listening pleasure. Everyone on these teams volunteers their time to create the MCB books.

Once or twice a week, the reader and monitor of each team will record for two hours. During that time, they cover about twelve pages of the book. The reviewer listens to their work. If there are any errors, the monitor will erase that part and insert the correction made by the reader. Usually this is done so that you do not even notice a correction has been made. This process continues until the entire book is complete. Sounds simple, right?

In this issue we'll highlight the monitor. A monitor must be detail oriented. They don't just listen to someone talk. Each one learns how to operate the OTARI recording machine. They are responsible for the technical parts of each book. Since a book is recorded on all four tracks of a tape, monitors need to be sure the OTARI is set to record on the correct side of the tape. They verify the consistency of the volume and the acoustical background from session to session. It also enables them to check the reader for accuracy. At the same time, they listen for how the reader expresses the meaning of each sentence; the pronunciation and emphasis of words; the tone of voice. Monitors ensure everything is technically accurate and the words flow smoothly.

Monitors, the silent partners, need to be compatible with their reader. One stated, “you need to know your partner, their voice; when they are doing their best.” Another said, “you need to listen carefully.” They all feel it’s easier to correct a mistake when it happens. One reader said, “I can’t do it without her.”

Please join us in applauding the MTBL Monitors for their generosity in giving their time and their excellent work. Here are our Monitors: Bonnie Anderson...Lea Blunn...Gil Gilbertson...Barb Harris...Phyllis Herbert...Charles Hicks...James Hoffman...Cordell Johnson...Darlene Lloyd...Mark Lowry...Sharron Moran...Chari Nelson...Noel Phillips...Lathie Poole...Ruth Straley...Jane Weidler. We hope you enjoy their efforts.

RECENT TITLES FROM THE MONTANA RECORDING PROGRAM

MCB 496 LONG SON

by Peter Bowen; Reader: James Hoffman

In Toussaint, Montana, a young woman and her land-owning parents die under suspicious circumstances. Gabriel Du Pre’ discovers a string of unexplained deaths buried in their family’s past. Steeped in the rich traditions of Metis storytelling, Long Son is the sixth in this highly acclaimed series. Strong language and violence.

MCB 573 THREE DOG WINTER

by Elizabeth Van Steenwyk; Reader: Chari Nelson.

Sled dog racing means everything to Scott McClure. The merging of two families is sensitively portrayed in this story and the love of Sled dog racing adds scenes of excitement and adventure.

MCB 633 THE BARON, THE LOGGER, THE MINER AND ME

by John H. Toole; Reader: Frank Graham

John Toole delves into the past and writes of his forebears—wondrous tales of adventure which make for rich, detailed, humorous, anecdotal, people-crammed Montana history.

MCB 641 A PLACE FOR SARAH

by Georgia Reeves Engle; Reader: JoAnn Mayala.

In 1865 Mike, Sarah, and Toby Murphy moved to Montana. After an earthquake, Mike went down to their root cellar and saw a wall had fallen down—he discovered a gold vein. With the money from the gold, they started a free school for people to learn to read and write.

MCB 642 FABIAN

by Joan Wolf; Reader: Judy Browning.

For grades 3-5. A tale of a boy, Robert, and a fox cub, Fabian, who are irresistibly drawn into a friendship. Despite warnings from Fabian’s parents, their friendship grows even when trouble arises.

**Montana Talking Book Library
1515 East Sixth Avenue
PO Box 201800
Helena, MT 59620-1800**

**Free Matter
for the Blind**

Address Service Requested

This newsletter is available on cassette, e-mail and large print upon request or visit our website: <http://www.msl.state.mt.us/tbl>

PATRON PICKS

RC 24601 Owls in the Family by Farley Mowat; grades 3-6
RC 43838 Bear Paw Horses by Will Henry
RC 47526 Angels Flight by Michael Connelly
RC 50721 First Lady by Susan Elizabeth Phillips

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

For Education: Distance Learning on the Net

<http://www.hoyle.com/distance.htm>

<http://www.petersons.com/distancelearning>

<http://www.distancelearning.education.yahoo.com>

For Kids: <http://www.bookhive.org>

http://www.endlessdiscoveries.net/fun_for_kids.htm

For Large-Type Books: The Toby Press LLC <http://www.tobypress.com>

For Parents: PBS Parents <http://www.pbsparents.org>

THE LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED

MEMORIAL DAY May 26, 2003

FOURTH OF JULY July 4, 2003

LABOR DAY September 1, 2003